

LOCAL OVERFLOW.

News of Punta Gorda and DeSoto County.

Miss Viola Anderson, one of the high school teachers, left Tuesday for her home at Levon, Fla.

Ice cream! ice cream, at Iverson's. Mrs. J. N. Gibbs is up from Sanibel this week on a visit of a few days to Miss Anna Ochiltree, of Solana.

Big line of fresh, pure penny candies at J. S. Goff's grocery.—44.

This market is now well supplied with fine watermelons that retail at 3c a pound. Eggs are plentiful at 25c a dozen.

The best of cool drinks.—Dr. H. A. Iverson.

Mr. S. B. Flower, a journalist of New York, is a guest here at the home of Mr. and Mrs. P. W. McAdow.

Purest, finest candies—big lot received yesterday by R. M. King.

Wm. Platt's home in Arcadia was destroyed by fire yesterday afternoon; cause, defective flue; loss \$1,500; insurance, \$600.

Fresh lot of pure candies just received by Hatch and Johnson.—13tf

The ballot for next Tuesday is such a big one that it will take extra time to vote it. Voters should therefore be on hand early.

Harness, wagons and buggies for sale at J. S. Goff's livery stable.—8

Notices and news items other than election news cannot appear in next week's HERALD, unless sent in before noon next Wednesday or sooner.

Best ice cream and cold drinks at Dr. H. A. Iverson's.—tf

Sol Phillips, jr., paid his home folks and many friends here a brief visit this week. As is known, he is engineer on one of the boats engaged on the Key West extension.

Ice cream and cool drinks of all kinds at Hatch and Johnson's.—13tf.

Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Watkins and daughter spent the past week recreating amongst the islands of the lower bay. They went in their launch, the Gov. Jennings.

Latest styles in fall and winter clothing at R. C. Blount's.

All matter for next week's HERALD must be sent in before noon next Wednesday. After that hour, nothing but election news will be accepted for publication.

High grade candy; also, many goods at special prices.—Dr. H. A. Iverson.

All members of the Episcopal Sunday school are urged to be present at the regular hour of 3 p. m. next Sunday as an important matter is to be disposed of.

Big stock of the latest styles and best wearing summer shoes at R. C. Blount's.

Joe C. Whittaker went up to Lakeland today to assist Agent Robinson in the freight office there. His place in the depot here is now filled by P. O. Gautier, an equally popular and competent gentleman.

Best grade of charcoal, made by Cromartie, handled by T. C. Crossland.—17-5t.

The ladies of the Woman's Home Mission Society of the Methodist church will serve ice cream and cake at the Trabue building on Friday afternoon and night in the interest of the seat fund. Any assistance given them will be greatly appreciated.

Country cured hams, finest in the market, absolutely guaranteed, at Goff's grocery.—1t.

Concrete sidewalks have just been laid on the north side of Marian avenue in front of the Stetson and the Trabue lots, and now Punta Gorda can justly claim to have more of such sidewalks than any other town in Florida with less than 2,500 population.

A free gift of decorated china, comprising a complete set, is made to every cash customer of Fortson and Rhode, grocers. Call and get particulars.—16tf.

An amateur dramatic company from Arcadia gave a very creditable entertainment here last night, presenting Shakespeare's "Comedy of Errors". A fair sized audience was present and was well pleased. Had the affair been properly advertised, the house would have been packed.

HON. H. E. CARLTON

Explains His Method of Conducting the Circuit Clerk's Office.

To the Voters of DeSoto County:

I consider it unnecessary to spend much time in explaining the fees allowed a clerk for his services. I would refer those interested to Sec. 1889, Page 743, General Statutes of Florida, relative to fees allowed in most of the civil work of the clerk. You will see there that he is allowed 15c. for searching any record more than one year old and 10c. for one year or under. This means any record, deeds, mortgages, judgments, liens, court dockets, tax books, tax sales records etc.

Under this head, I would say, All told I have made hundreds of searches free of charge, as many citizens can testify. It is only for the extensive searches that I have made charges in examining indexes, deed records etc., whereas I am entitled to charge 15c. if I examine only one deed one year old. I dislike to refer to pension work which I have done free of charge, but I hope, under the circumstances, that those for whom I have

such work will pardon me for referring to it. Work for which Attorneys have charged from \$5.00 to \$10.00, has been performed by me free of charge. I refer to pension applications for old soldiers and widows. It is only recently that I have charged anything for filling out, signing and sealing their vouchers and then only 25cts. once every three months.

For several years I have done this work free of charge, but under the late law the number of pensioners was so much increased and consumed so much time that I felt it just and right to charge the small fee of 25 cents to all;—after a short time I decided to make no charges to widows.

We charge ministers and widows only half price for recording or any work we do for them. For instance, if we do work for them worth \$2.00, we charge only \$1.00. THIS BEING AN ILLEGAL FEE should be mentioned, as the law gives us the same fee for working for MINISTERS and WIDOWS as it does for other people.

We record ONE deed for any church free of charge.

Relative to fees mentioned in Chap. 5113, Sec. 10, Acts of 1903, would say, They refer to searches exclusively, as I see it, and not to the assessment of the taxes for the different omitted years and computation of interest on the same. I have conferred with the Comptroller as to bringing down the taxes for the omitted years; and he says there is no law prohibiting fees for this work, and that it is left largely with Clerks to use their best judgment in such cases, and that the law presumes that every public servant should be paid for his services.

To make a complete search of the Tax Sale records alone, saying nothing of the search on the Tax books, amounts to \$3.35, besides 50 cents for each certificate; so it is clearly seen that instead of \$2.50 for redeeming a piece of land, the searching alone would be \$3.50, besides other fees to be added arising from certificates etc.

I have also talked with other clerks on this subject, trying to find out the right way, and they agree with me as to these charges.

Now, there are certain laws which are badly worded and which seem to be susceptible of different constructions.

It has been my plan ever since I

have filled the present position to do all in my power to be kind and courteous to all citizens, and to show to them beyond any doubt that I realized that I was only their servant, and ready at any time to serve them either day or night. I have at times spent hours in the office at night, after a hard day's work, in order to accommodate some one whose time was limited and who wished to get through as early as possible.

It has been my policy to improve the records of the office and the system of keeping the files, and I can say without being egotistical, that I have succeeded in doing so.

Relative to issuing Tax deeds, I would say, Unfortunately we are unable to carry out the law to the letter, for the reason that the Collector has failed to file his stubs in the Clerk's office as he should, thereby preventing us from obtaining the necessary information which we cannot obtain from any other source. The tax books do not always show who paid the last taxes, but the stubs which are not filed in the office, do show.

The taxes may be assessed to one person or as "unknown," and paid by some one else, whose name is not mentioned on the Tax roll.

Now I wish to say that I have always done my duty conscientiously as I have seen it; and when I have felt uncertain about anything, I have corresponded with the Comptroller to try to find out the right way; and after I have heard from him, I have "governed myself accordingly."

Thanking you for past support, and trusting you will remember me in a substantial way on the 19th of May, I remain,

Yours faithfully,
H. E. CARLTON.

FOR NATIONAL COMMITTEEMAN

Ex-Governor William S. Jennings.

There are two candidates named Jennings for member of National Committee. If voters desire the election of W. J. Bryan, President, they should vote for his kinsman, William S. Jennings, who on former occasions demonstrated his capabilities in the service of his party and is recognized by democratic leaders of National reputation as being one of the ablest and most useful men that could be named on the National Committee in management of the coming contest. Those sharing this view should vote for William S. Jennings.—adv.

We Have the Goods

Our line is up-to-date in every respect, and prices are so low that you need not think of going out of town to buy goods.

Groceries, Hay and Feed Stuffs

No trouble to call and get your order, and we deliver to all parts of the city.

Remember We also have a choice line of Florida and Western Fresh Meats which are sold at lowest prices.

Fruits, Vegetables and Cereals

We keep all the time, and we are pleased to have a share of your patronage.

FRANK R. BLOUNT,

'Phone 35

Punta Gorda, Florida.

PATRONIZE HOME FOLKS!

The Arcadia Steam Laundry is a Home Institution

Which Guarantees Satisfaction to all its Customers.
Family Washing 25 per cent. off List Prices.
Ladies' Fine Wear Given Careful Attention.

UP-TO-DATE CLEANING AND PRESSING.

Punta Gorda Basket Leaves King's Fruit Store Every Tuesday. Clothes Returned Saturday.

STANLEY G. TOMS, Agent.

PUNTA GORDA,

FLORIDA.

Punta Gorda Hardware

J. F. CORBETT, Prop.

Building Hardware, Ship Chandlery, Paints, Oils and Varnishes, Neals Enamels, Jap-A-Lac and all first colors in oil. Perolin, the only dust proof sweeping compound. Select line of "Queensware."

SOLE AGENT FOR

New Home and Standard Sewing Machines, Economist Stoves. Bolte and Meyer Gas Light System, Oliver and Chattanooga Plows, McCormick Mowers, Rakes and Harrows, Pittsburg Steel Fencing. Anti-Septine Wood Preservative, Arco-Elastic Roof Paint.

Undertaking and Embalming, Burial Caskets, Coffins and Robes.

Everything in The Hardware Line.